

**VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
FACULTY OF COMMERCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

MMCA 401 – METHODOLOGY - 2005

ADMINISTRATION

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Course Contents: The course will present a method for analysing arguments expressed in natural languages and this method will be used when considering some central issues in the Philosophy of Social Science.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course students should

1. Have the ability to analyse the structure and assess the cogency of arguments
2. Have an understanding of some of the central themes in the philosophy of social science.
3. Have demonstrated this understanding and its application with well-argued discussion and formal analysis, particularly in writing but also in tutorial discussion.
4. Have an adequate background for undertaking those courses which consider methodological issues relevant to particular disciplines.

Timetable: Wednesday 9-30-11-20 in RLY 127

Tutorials: The class will, if possible, be split into groups of about 10 for a weekly tutorial session. The times and rooms for the tutorials will be given in the first lecture.

Assessment

Assignment 1	20%
Assignment 2	30%
Two hour Registry examination	50%

All pieces of assessment will contribute to and test the three objectives, with the balance varying.

Assignment 1: Due 23 Mar, 9-0 a.m.

Assignment 2: Due 9 May, 9-0 a.m.

Late work will be accepted without penalty with good reason (e.g. a medical certificate) and prior permission. In other cases 5 marks will be deducted from the student's mark (out of 100) for each day, or part day, the assignment is late. The assignments can be found on page 4 of this document.

The exam will be held during the mid year exam period. Its date and time will be notified on official university exam timetables. No materials or calculators may be taken into the final exam.

The final examination will consist of two parts. Part A will consist of a compulsory question in which students are presented with an argument which they have to appraise using the tools of argument analysis. Part B will consist of a set of essay questions, of which two have to be answered. The weighting for Part A is 25% and the weighting for Part B is 75%. To help you with preparing for the examination a set of revision questions will be distributed separately.

Study Time

It is expected that students will devote about 10-12 hours a week of independent study to this course.

READING

1. Govier, T., 1992, *A Practical Study of Argument*, Third Edition, Belmont, Wadsworth, [BC177 G721P 3ed] at **least** CHs. 1-3 and Ch. 11 Multiple copies of the book are available in the Study Hall. Notice it is important that you attempt some of the exercises in this book.
2. Argument Analysis Handout

3. Readings from the **MMCA 401 Handbook**. [Copies of the Handbook are available from the Student Bookshop. Apart from Govier and the Argument Analysis Handout all references cited in the next section can be found in the Handbook.].
4. For some of the topics notes prepared by the lecturers will be placed on Blackboard.

The required reading for all lectures is given in the following section. References placed within square brackets are suggested supplementary readings.

The lectures will be given assuming that the students have already read the relevant material. For most of the tutorials you should, before attending,

1. Prepare a short summary of the material that is to be discussed.
2. Identify what you take to be the central arguments/explanations and provide a standardisation of them.
3. Evaluate these arguments/explanations using the methods suggested in the lectures

LECTURE/TUTORIAL TIMETABLE

1. Week beginning 21 Feb

Lecture: Argument analysis
 Reading: Argument Analysis Handout, Baggini [1], Baggini [2], Govier CHs 1-3

2. Week beginning 28 Feb

Lecture: Argument analysis
 Reading: Argument Analysis Handout, Baggini [1], Baggini [2], Govier CHs 1- 3
 Tutorial: Standardise and evaluate passages 4, 8, 19 from Argument Analysis Handout.

3. Week beginning 7 Mar

Lecture: Case Study of Argument Analysis: Nagel, "Free Will."
 Reading: Nagel
 Tutorial: Read the introductory section and the section headed "11.1 The Naturalistic Tradition" from Salmon [1995] and then present all of the arguments contained in section 11.1 in standard form.

4. Week beginning 14 Mar

Lecture: Argument Analysis/Testing Hypotheses
 Reading: Salmon (1995) Sections I to V and VII
 Tutorial: Discussion of Nagel

5. Week beginning 21 Mar

Lecture: Explanation
 Reading: "Explanation" in Course documents, Baker and Bettner, Hollis p. 68-70,, Searle p.168-9.
 Tutorial: Discussion of Salmon (1995)

6 Week beginning 11 Apr

Lecture: Social Study and Objectivity
 Reading: Pratt
 Tutorial: Standardise Baker and Bettner's explanation for the paucity of interpretative/critical studies in mainstream accounting journals? Is their explanation convincing? Standardise Baker and Bettner's argument which concludes that mainstream accounting journals should publish more interpretative/critical studies. Is their argument cogent?

7 Week beginning 18 Apr

Lecture: Philosophy of Social Science 1
Reading: Salmon (1992) 11.1 to 11.4, [Braybrooke]
Tutorial: Discussion of Pratt

8 Week beginning 25 Apr

Lecture: Philosophy of Social Science 2
Reading: Salmon [1992] 11.5 to end. [Searle]
Tutorial: Discussion of Salmon 11.1 to 11.4.

9. Week beginning 2 May

Lecture: Philosophy of Social Science 3
Reading: Hollis, opening section and sections 1 and 2
Tutorial: Discussion of Salmon 11.5 to end, [Searle]

10. Week beginning 9 May

Lecture: Philosophy of Social Science 4
Reading: Hollis, sections 3 and 4, [Boghossian, Schick and Vaughan]
Tutorial: Discussion of Hollis, opening section and sections 1 and 2

Lecture: Homo Economicus-Homo Sociologicus [1]
Reading: Elster, Becker, Hollis Section 3.1
Tutorial: Hollis, sections 3 and 4, [Boghossian, Schick and Vaughan]

11. Week beginning 16 May

Lecture: Homo Economicus-Homo Sociologicus [1]
Reading: Elster, Becker, Hollis Section 3.1
Tutorial: Hollis, sections 3 and 4, [Boghossian, Schick and Vaughan]

12. Week beginning 23 May

Lecture: Review of course material
Tutorial: Revision material

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

To appreciate the material covered in this course it is useful to have some knowledge of the development of the physical sciences. For this purpose you should find Brown, R. H., 1986, *The Wisdom of Science*, Cambridge University Press, a useful reference.

To assist you in your reading you will find the following references helpful.

N. Bunnin and E. P. Tsui-James (Ed's), Glossary, *The Blackwell Companion to Philosophy*, Oxford, Blackwell.

A Dictionary of Philosophy, 1979, Pan Books, London.

McLeish, K. (Ed.), 1993, *Key Ideas in Human Thought*, Bloomsbury, London

Magee, B., (Ed), 1987, *The Great Philosophers: An Introduction to Western Philosophy*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, [B72 M191 G]

A selection of Philosophy of social science texts is.

Hargreaves Heap, S., Hollis, M., Lyons, B., Sugden, R., and A. Weale, 1992, *The Theory of Choice: A Critical Guide*, Oxford, Blackwell, [HB 846.8 T396]

Hollis, M., 1994, *The Philosophy of Social Science*, Cambridge University Press.

Little, D., 1991, *Varieties of Social Explanation*, Boulder, Westview Press, [H61 L778 V]
Rosenberg, A., 1995, *Philosophy of Social Science*, Boulder, second edition, Westview Press, [H91 R813 P]

Collections of relevant papers can be found in

Boyd R., P. Gasper and J. D. Trout, 1993, *The Philosophy of Science*, Cambridge Mass, MIT Press, [Q175.3 P568] {BGT}
Martin, M., and L. C. McIntyre, 1994, *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, Cambridge Mass., MIT Press, [H61 R287] {MM}

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1: Due date. 23 Mar, 9-0 a.m. Hand in at the lecture

In his chapter “Social Study and Objectivity” Pratt presents an argument which has been put forward by other writers and which has the conclusion that, “Social studies cannot be objective.”

- a. Present this argument in standard form. [50 marks]
- b. Does Pratt find this argument cogent? Explain your answer and include in it any arguments which Pratt uses to evaluate the argument standardised in part a. These arguments should also be presented in standard form. [50 marks]

Answers should be typed and written in good English that is not in note form.

Assignment 2: Due date 9 May, 9-0 a.m. Hand in at the lecture.

Write a review essay of J Searle, “Prospects for the Social Sciences” [Reprinted in the Course Handbook]

Your essay should satisfy the following conditions

1. It should contain a clear summary of the material. A clear summary is one such that a reader who had not read the work you are reviewing but who had read your summary would have an accurate idea of the contents of the work being reviewed.
2. It should present those arguments/explanations which you consider to be the most important ones
3. It should present an evaluation of these central arguments/explanations.
4. It should state clearly why you do or do not or not you accept the central conclusion.

Also note

5. Essays should be typed and written in good English, that is not in note form, and should include a properly referenced bibliography
6. Essays should not exceed 1500 words. Only the first 1500 words of an essay will be marked.
7. You should, as far as is possible, express the ideas in your own words. Extensive quoting or near quoting usually indicates a lack of comprehension

General University Policies and Statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly those regarding assessment and course of study requirements, and formal academic grievance procedures.

Student Conduct and Staff Conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps can be taken if there is a complaint. For queries about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor. This Statute is available in the Faculty Student Administration Office or on the website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StudentConduct.

The policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at:
www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StaffConduct.

Academic Grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned or, if you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the Associate Dean (Students) of your Faculty. Class representatives are available to assist you with this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievances Policy which is published on the VUW website:
www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/AcademicGrievances.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means **no cheating**. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. Plagiarism is **prohibited** at Victoria.

The University defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not.

'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea, even if it is presented in your own style. It includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other students or staff, information from the Internet, software programmes and other electronic material, designs and ideas. It also includes the organization or structuring of any such material.

Plagiarism is not worth the risk.

Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct (www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct) and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- suspension from class or university
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course.

Find out more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, on the University's website at:
www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html.

Students with Disabilities

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities an equal opportunity with all other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, then please contact the Course Coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services to confidentially discuss your individual needs and the options and support that are available. Disability Support Services are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building, or phoning 463-6070, email: disability@vuw.ac.nz. The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person can be obtained from the Administrative Assistant or the School Prospectus.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students' learning experiences at the University to be positive. If your academic progress is causing you concern, please contact the relevant Course Co-ordinator, or Associate Dean

who will either help you directly or put you in contact with someone who can.

The Student Services Group is also available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/ or email student-services@vuw.ac.nz.

VUWSA employs two Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building, phone 463 6983 or 463 6984, email education@vuwsa.org.nz.